

Remarks

Applicant's representative thanks Examiner Jillions for the indication of allowable subject matter. In the Office Action dated October 5, 2004, the Examiner objected to Figs. 1-3 and 6a, and rejected claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by or under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over applicant's prior art (hereinafter APA). Claims 7 and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims. By this Amendment, Applicant's representative amends Figs. 1-3 and 6a, and claims 1, 8 and 15, and cancels claims 6, 7, 13, 14 and 20.

With respect to the Examiner's rejections, the Examiner is requested to consider the following remarks.

Figures 1-3 and 6a been amended to include the legend "(Conventional)", and the objection should be withdrawn.

Independent claims 1, 8 and 15 are amended to include what is believed to be the allowable subject matter of claims 7 and 14, and the rejection should be withdrawn. Claims 6, 13 and 20 have been canceled for consistency. As such, no new matter has been added.

Regarding the claims which depend from the independent claims, Applicant contends that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that the independent claims are patentable. Moreover, Applicant contends that these claims recite further limitations, in addition to the limitations of the independent claims, which render these claims additionally patentable.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-3 and 6a. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-4, 5(a-b) and 6(a-b), replace the original sheet(s) including Figs. 1-4, 5(a-b) and 6(a-b).


Attachment: Replacement Sheet s 1/2 and 2/2

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes to Figs. 1-3 and 6a

Consequently, in view of these remarks, Applicant respectfully contends that the rejections have been fully replied to and traversed, and that the application is in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issue. No fee is believed to be due for the filing of this paper. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss prompt resolution of any remaining issues necessary to place this case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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By 
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Date: January 4, 2005

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Attachment: Replacement Sheet s 1/2 and 2/2
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes to Figs. 1-3 and 6a

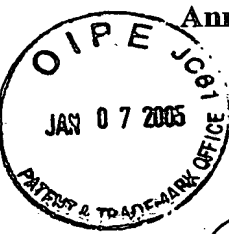


Fig. 1
 (conventional)

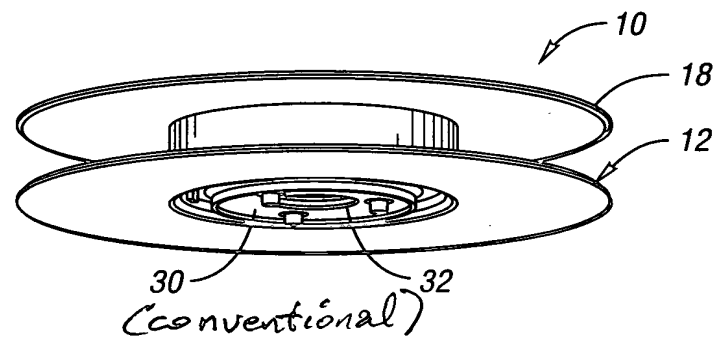
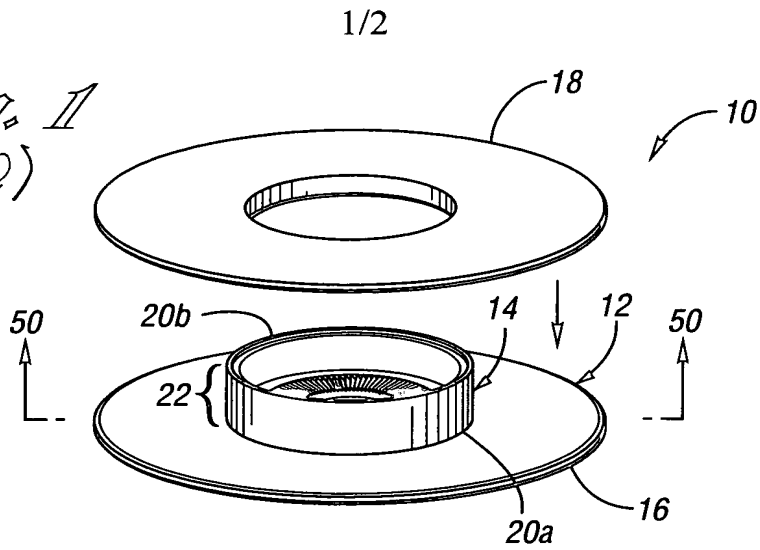


Fig. 2

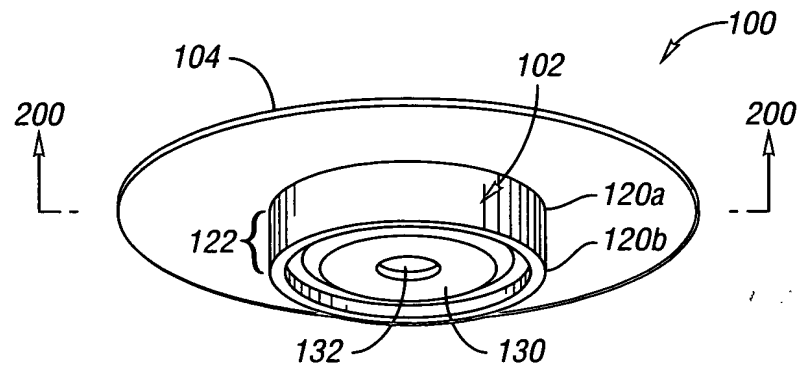
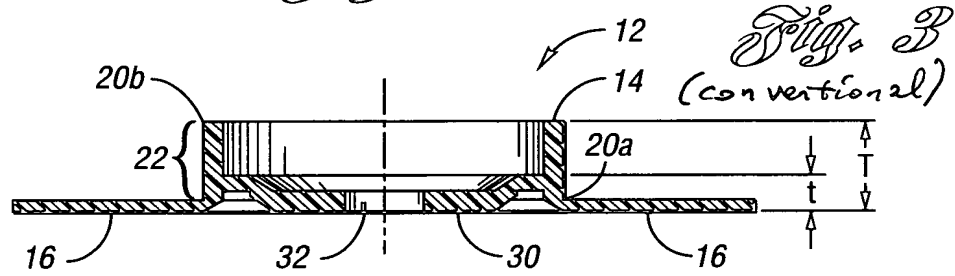


Fig. 4

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